

CONFIDENTIAL

REO Bogota, UP, in Spanish Morse to North and South America, April 23, 1947

(Text) Bogota-- The Cabinet named today by President Ospina Perez follows the policy of national unity that has been preached by the present chief executive since he took office, with equal representation for both parties, since the 12 portfolios are divided among six Liberals and six Traditional Conservatives. The following Conservative Ministers-- Urdaneta Arbelaez; Interior; Perez, Finance; Zuleta Angel, Education; and Davila Telles, Communications-- keep their portfolios. The other two Conservatives in the cabinet are Alejandro Cabal Pombo, for Justice, and Luis Ignacio Andrade, who is manager of EL SIGLO, for Public Works.

Among the six Liberal Ministers, four belong to Jorge Eliecer Gaitan's faction and two are followers of Santos. The two latter are Luis Lopez de Meza, who returns to the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, and Fabio Lozano Lozano, who was Colombian Ambassador to Caracas, as War Minister.

The four Gaitanista Ministers are the lawyer Jaramillo Arbelaez, Labor; the noted doctor Pedro Eliseo Cruz, Health; former Minister and diplomat Moises Prieto, Economy; and Francisco de P. Vargas, Liberal party boss of Bolivar Department, Mines and Petroleum.

In its general lines the cabinet is well received by the press and the public. The larger representation given the Gaitanista faction in the Liberal ranks is interpreted as a recognition of the electoral facts, since in the last elections it received a sizable majority over the opposing Liberal forces.

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(Text) Bogota-- The National Conservative Board answered, in a long message addressed to the President of the Republic, an appeal on "a report of insults" sent a few days ago by the Liberal leader, Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, to President Ospina in which Gaitan says that the Conservatives have created an atmosphere of anxiety which disturbs the tranquility of the country. The Conservative Directory notes chronologically the "Victims" of the Liberals in all the country beginning January 1947 - a list which adds up to 41 dead and hundreds of wounded.

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(Text) Bogota-- Ex-President Eduardo Santos, together with his wife, flew to the United States on his way to Europe. In statements to the press, Santos favored collaboration by the Liberals with the Ospina Perez Government in order to help meet the difficult situation the country is in because of postwar problems.

Santos will spend several months in England and France.

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